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SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 1904.

If you go to the mountains, seashore  
or country, have The Times-Dispatch  
go with you.

City subscribers before leaving the  
city during the summer should notify  
their carrier or this office (Phone 38).

If you write, give both out-of-town  
and city addresses.

Council Committees.

The municipality of Richmond is soon  
to enter upon a new era. The new city  
government as provided for in the new  
constitution will be inaugurated. There  
will be new members of the Council and  
there will be a new mayor. But this is  
not all. Our new administration begins  
with a new inspiration. There has been  
a general awakening throughout the city  
of Richmond and there is a demand uni-  
versal for a clean, honest and efficient  
administration of public affairs. There  
is a demand for clear water, clean  
streets and better paved streets, for a  
new free bridge across the James river,  
for more efficient police force, and for  
betterments generally in the public service.

The new Council will have serious  
responsibilities thrust upon it, for the  
people will demand of that Council all  
the betterments that we have referred to.  
But everybody knows that the work of  
the Council is done and necessarily done  
in great measure by the several commit-  
tees. Therefore it becomes a matter of  
supreme importance that the committees  
be well composed, that they be made up  
of men who are and have ever been  
above reproach and above suspicion, and  
who can be counted upon to discharge  
their duties with honesty, faithfulness  
and efficiency. The appointment of these  
committees devolves upon the president  
of the Council and the people of  
Richmond expect them to make these  
appointments with an eye single to the  
true interests of the city, in making  
these selections their duty is to the city  
and not to the individual members of  
the Council. They are acting as representa-  
tives of the people and not as representa-  
tives of the members of the Council. They  
have been in the Council for a long time  
and know full well the character and cap-  
acity of their associates. They know the  
men who are best qualified in all respects  
to serve on the committees, and in the  
duty before them they should use that  
knowledge, without fear or favor, for the  
common welfare.

We understand right well the delicacy  
and difficulties of their position; we know  
that great pressure has been brought to  
bear upon them in favor of this man or  
that; we know how hard it is for a man  
in their place to deny the request of an  
associate. But we know that they are  
honest and conscientious, and such a man  
puts duty above everything. The people  
of Richmond rely upon them to discharge  
their duty faithfully to them in this mat-  
ter of vital importance. The mere fact  
that a member importunes the president  
to appoint him on an important commit-  
tee is prima facie evidence that he is  
not the proper man to serve. Positions  
of this character are neither to be sought  
nor declined. They involve a great deal  
of arduous and responsible work and  
members who have only the interest of  
the city at heart are not apt to rush to  
the front and beg the appointing officer  
to put these grave responsibilities and  
irksome duties and fatiguing work upon  
them. Their inclination is to shrink from  
the task. When a councilman rushes in  
and urges his own appointment upon a  
committee which will have to make large  
sums of public money, he certainly says  
himself liable to the suspicion that he  
is looking for graft, and it is the duty  
of the president to beware of him.

The Times-Dispatch has no personal  
favorites in the council, and it is very  
far from our purpose to advocate the  
claims of any individual, but in behalf  
of the taxpayers of Richmond and the  
people at large, we urge President Pet-  
ters and President Turpin to keep well  
in view the facts which we have set  
forth, to put aside all questions of per-  
sonal favoritism, to remember that they  
are acting in a representative capacity,  
that the appointing power which has  
been bestowed upon them is a sacred  
trust, and to select as committeemen  
men, whom they know to be in all re-  
spects best qualified to protect and ad-  
vance the interests of Richmond. In pur-  
suing that course they may be sure that  
they will be upheld and supported by  
the best and truest of their fellow-cit-  
izens.

Mr. Hill's Retirement.

The announcement of Mr. David B. Hill,  
of New York, that after January 1st he  
will retire permanently from politics, has  
caused something of a political sensa-  
tion in this State. Mr. Hill was born  
sixty-one years ago yesterday, in Ha-  
vanna, N. Y. He was educated in the  
schools of his native town, but removed  
to Elmira in 1882, and two years later was  
admitted to the bar. He appeared first  
in State politics in 1888, when he was  
elected a delegate to the State convention,  
and two years later he was elected to the  
General Assembly, being re-elected the  
following year. During his second term  
he rose to prominence as a co-worker  
with Samuel J. Tilden on the Judiciary  
Committee, which prosecuted the Tweed  
ring, and he and Mr. Tilden became  
fast friends. In 1887 he was named as  
chairman of the Democratic State Con-  
vention, which was held at Albany, and  
was again elected to the same position in  
the convention of 1891. In that year he  
was chosen Mayor of Elmira by a large  
majority, although the city was nor-  
mally Republican, and his administration  
was very popular. In 1892 he was nomi-  
nated for Lieutenant-Governor, and when  
Grover Cleveland became President he  
succeeded him as Governor. After filling  
out Cleveland's unexpired term he was  
elected Governor in 1898 and re-elected  
in 1899, in spite of the fact that Cleve-  
land lost the State for the presidency.

Such is a brief sketch of his political  
career as given in the New York Herald.  
But Mr. Hill was more than a local polit-  
ician. He took an active part in national  
politics, and for a long time was  
regarded by many as a suitable person  
to be nominated for the presidency. That  
was the cherished ambition of his life,  
but it was never realized. Of late Mr.  
Hill has lost out as a national character,  
his downfall being due especially to his  
advocacy of government ownership and  
control of anthracite coal mines.

He has many enemies in his own party,  
and these feared that if Parker should  
be elected Hill would become a member  
of the Cabinet, and would exercise an  
undue influence in New York politics.  
His announcement that he will retire from  
active politics in January and will in no  
event thereafter accept political office  
will undoubtedly have the effect of  
strengthening Parker's candidacy in the  
State of New York.

The White Plague.

It is said by medical experts that of  
the 90,000,000 people in the United States  
to-day, 9,000,000 will die of tuberculosis  
unless some method of prevention be  
used.

That is a statement that ought to startle  
and arouse the people to action. But it  
will be disregarded by most of those  
who read it—by some because they do  
not believe it, and by others who do not  
believe that there is any possibility of  
their becoming victims.

But the statement is doubtless true,  
and who can say that he will not fall  
a victim to the White Plague, when the  
air is full of the disease germs?

"No medicine in a bottle ever cured  
tuberculosis," said Dr. Homer M. Thomas,  
of Chicago, in an address before the  
Chautauque Assembly at Ottawa, Ill.:  
"The four basic principles upon which  
rests salvation from tuberculosis," said  
the speaker, "are pure air, pure water,  
pure food, pure thoughts."

But what we want is prevention. Con-  
sumption is a preventable disease, and it  
is sinful for us to fail to use the means  
to that end. A movement to stamp out  
the disease has been inaugurated in  
Virginia, and it should have the cordial  
support of the people.

Campaign of Education.

A bulletin recently sent out by the  
Democratic National Convention an-  
nounces that requests from all over the  
country for campaign literature has been  
received in great volumes, and that it is  
estimated that before the close of the  
campaign 15,000,000 tons of printed paper  
will have been distributed.

That must be an exaggerated statement,  
but it shows that the voters at large are  
deeply interested in the issues of the  
present campaign, and that they desire  
to inform themselves thoroughly before  
election day. It is a good sign. The  
voters ought to know what they are  
about, and they ought to take the keen-  
est interest in elections, the presidential  
election of all others. When the people  
are well informed; when they interest  
themselves mind and heart in public af-  
fairs; when they know what they are  
about and go to the polls and vote, the  
government will be safe. It is only  
when the people are ignorant or indif-  
ferent that there is danger of misrule.

Let this be a campaign of education  
in fact as well as in name, and it will  
not have been in vain, no matter which  
side wins.

An Absurd Charge.

It is said that Mr. Roosevelt, in a  
speech delivered before the New York  
Wool Exchange on October 27, 1899,  
referred to the farmers as the "basest set  
in the land." This statement appears  
on a leaflet sent out by the National  
Democratic Committee, but we wish to  
enter our protest against that sort of  
campaigning. It is very cheap, and can  
do the party no good. More than that,  
no sane man believes that Mr. Roosevelt  
ever made such a remark in a public  
speech. He denies it, and the committee  
will do well to take him at his word and  
be done with such pitiful disprap.

The Times-Dispatch is very anxious to  
see Mr. Roosevelt defeated, but it is un-  
willing to stoop to mud-slinging. Let us  
have a clean campaign. Both the candi-  
dates are clean men, and there is no  
excuse for throwing dirt. If the Republi-  
cans wish to engage in it, let 'em. The  
Democrats cannot afford it.

Our esteemed evening contemporary,  
The News Leader, announces that it has  
purchased the large and attractive build-  
ing, corner Ninth and Main Streets, in  
which it has been published for some  
time past, and now has a pe-  
riodical of its own. We congratulate its  
neighbor upon its acquisition, and wish  
it long life and prosperity.

Patriarch Fish, Seminole Indian, is  
said to be the oldest living Indian soldier  
and prisoner. He is 119 years old and

draws a pension of \$15 a month. He was  
a member of Company K, of the Indian  
Home Guards.

Present indications are that when the  
Japs take Port Arthur they won't find  
much more than can be carried away in  
a few knapsacks.

The Georgia mob had its own sweet  
way when it was found that the Georgia  
soldiers, and not their guns, were loaded.

Candidate Swallow is not making the  
active canvass he promised his dry fol-  
lowers he would soon start upon.

In some parts of the country there is  
but a slip 'twixt the Sunday school picnic  
and the political barbecue.

A tariff that would please everybody  
would be a good campaign document if  
the thing was a possibility.

Japan seems able to guarantee that  
China will remain neutral enough for  
all practicable purposes.

The honorable Mr. Munroe lost very lit-  
tle time in acknowledging that he was  
not a world champion.

The Louisiana that went into the water  
Saturday is not a Louisiana of the an-  
cient tiger brand.

The Virginia candidates for Congress  
are expected soon to put a little steam  
in the campaign.

The Louisiana rests upon the bosom of  
the waters. Water is the natural bosom  
for Louisiana.

The Chinese are rather enjoying the  
privileges of being the bone in this dog  
fight.

New York's vitriol horror is trying very  
hard to keep the police awake for a  
while.

All Mayors are not always the com-  
posers of all of their own compositions.

Well, Mr. Hill needs rest, and it may  
be well that he has decided to retire.

Trend of Thought  
In Dixie Land

Atlanta Constitution: It is said there is  
another organized movement of negroes  
in New York to put their alleged civil  
rights to legal tests by getting them-  
selves refused entertainment at hotels,  
cafes and saloons patronized exclusively  
by whites. They are even suing the  
Italian bootblacks for refusing to shine  
their shoes. They openly boast that they  
are going to make the extreme race pre-  
judice against them in the North exceed-  
ingly costly in dollars and cents.

The crusade, so greatly encouraged by  
the conduct of the Republican  
administration toward the negro, will  
be watched with considerable interest.

Charleston News and Courier: In all  
the circumstances we do not think it  
strange that Mr. Frank James, of Mis-  
souri, should declare that, in his cam-  
paign at least, he is a Republican and  
consequently heart and soul politically  
for Mr. Roosevelt. A large part of the  
life and endeavors of Mr. James have  
been devoted to pursuits which should  
render such affiliations peculiarly agree-  
able to him. His long association with  
the "J. Edgar" James party of outlaws,  
his experience in the hold-up method of  
conducting public affairs and accomplish-  
ing the same, and the fact that he has  
his political sympathies in the way they  
have now taken, but should render his  
alliance with the Republican party of  
distinct value to that organization and  
its leaders.

New Orleans Picayune: It was to be  
expected that the negroes would be put  
forward as much as possible to make  
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